

NATURE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EXPLORER GUIDE

EPISODE 4: OBSERVING THE OUTDOORS

Do you need nature journaling inspiration? Cut out these prompts, fold them in half and toss them in a hat. Complete whichever prompt you pull out!

Find a comfortable spot outside and sit quietly for 30 seconds. What do you hear?	Find a seed. What plant is it from? How does it travel? Sketch and describe it.
Choose two leaves. Study them closely. What are the similarities? Differences?	Explore an area outside. Try to find a natural object for every color of the rainbow.
Find an ant and follow its path. Draw a map of the route from its perspective.	Explore outside at night. What sounds can you hear? How do they differ from sounds during the day?
Find an object that intrigues you. Describe the object using "I notice... I wonder... it reminds me of..."	Explore outside at night. What sounds can you hear? How do they differ from sounds during the day?
Find a twig. Using both words and drawings, describe the details that make it unique.	Find a tree and study it from a distance. Sketch its silhouette. Is it bare? Are there leaves?
Wake up early and listen to the "dawn song" performed by male birds. How many different tunes do you hear?	Step outside early in the morning when there is dew on the ground. Take in a deep breath. What does it smell like?
Study an insect, in person or in a book. Practice creating a scientific sketch (head, thorax, abdomen).	You are an alien visiting from another planet. Find an object and describe your discovery in a letter home.
What is the current season? How does the season affect you? Plants? Animals?	Search for animal signs (tracks, scat, homes, chew marks, etc.) and record them in your journal.
Find, draw, or photograph a mushroom. Can you find one on the ground? On a tree?	Which tree species dominates your area? Record its characteristics and use a guide to ID it.
Study the behavior of squirrels. What types of movements do they make? What are they doing?	Find a body of water- like a pond or creek. Record any sights, smells, or sounds.

I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me Of...

Location:

Date/Time:

Weather:

I Notice...

I Wonder...

It Reminds Me Of...

Zoom In, Zoom Out

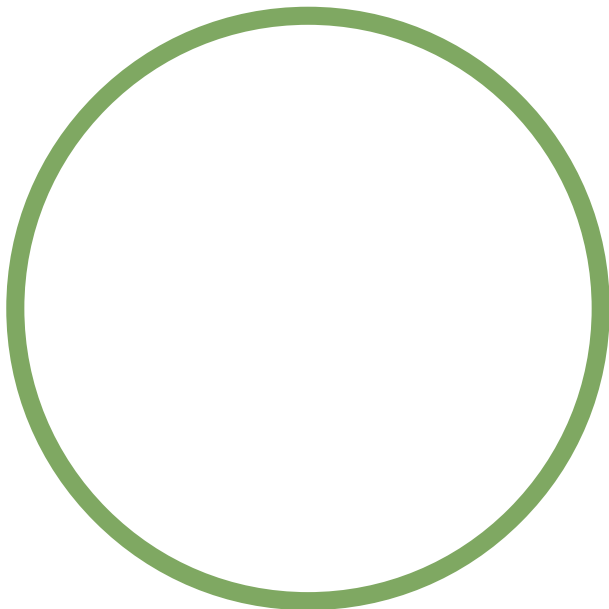
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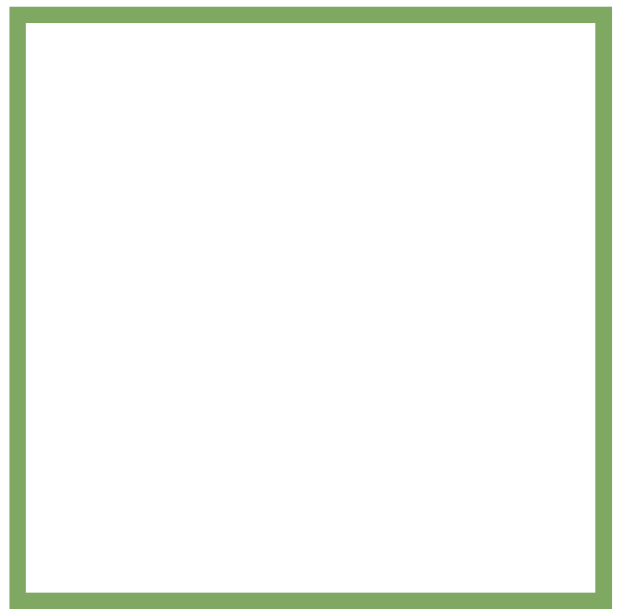
Weather:

Actual Size:

Zoom In

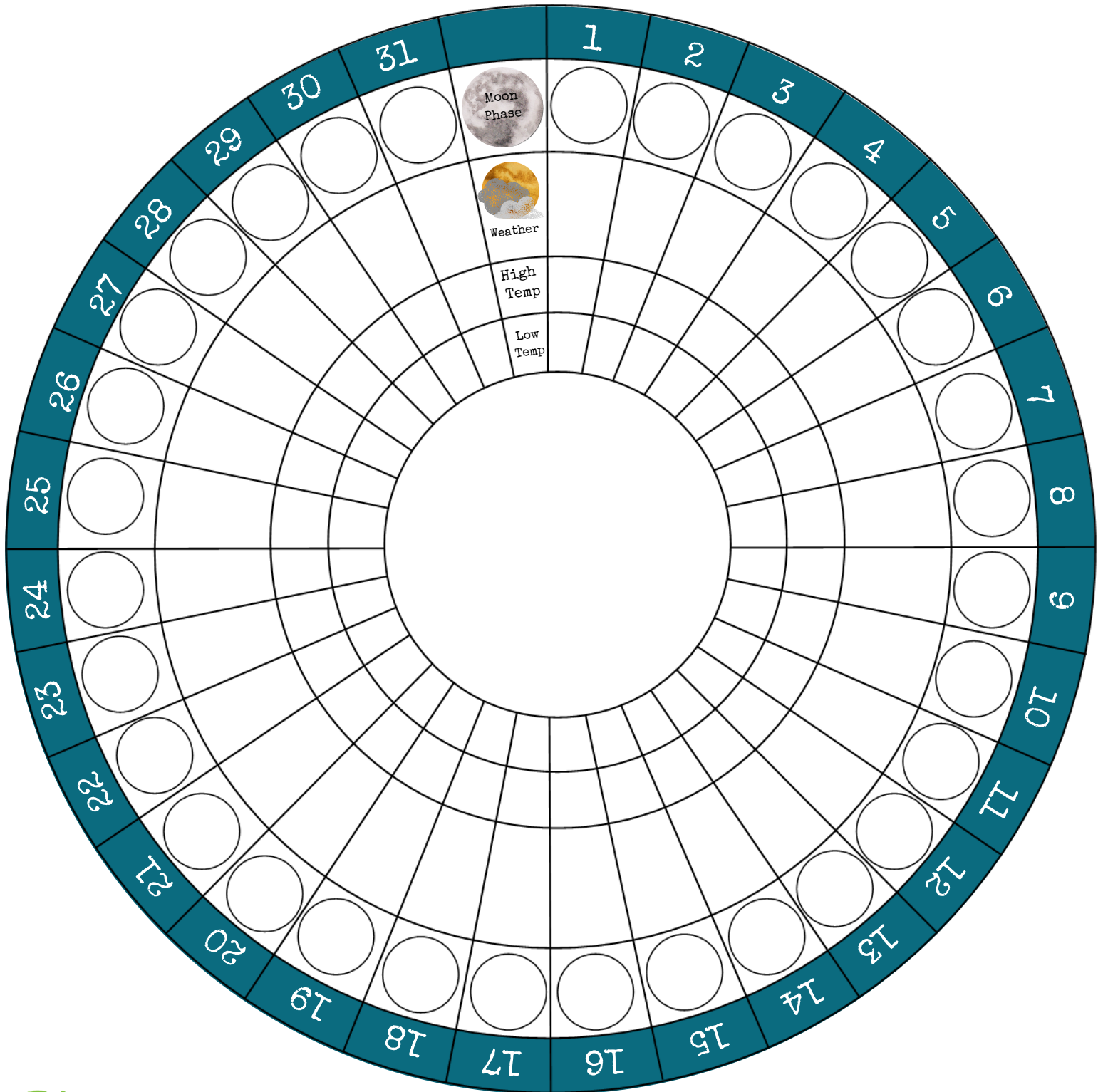


Zoom Out



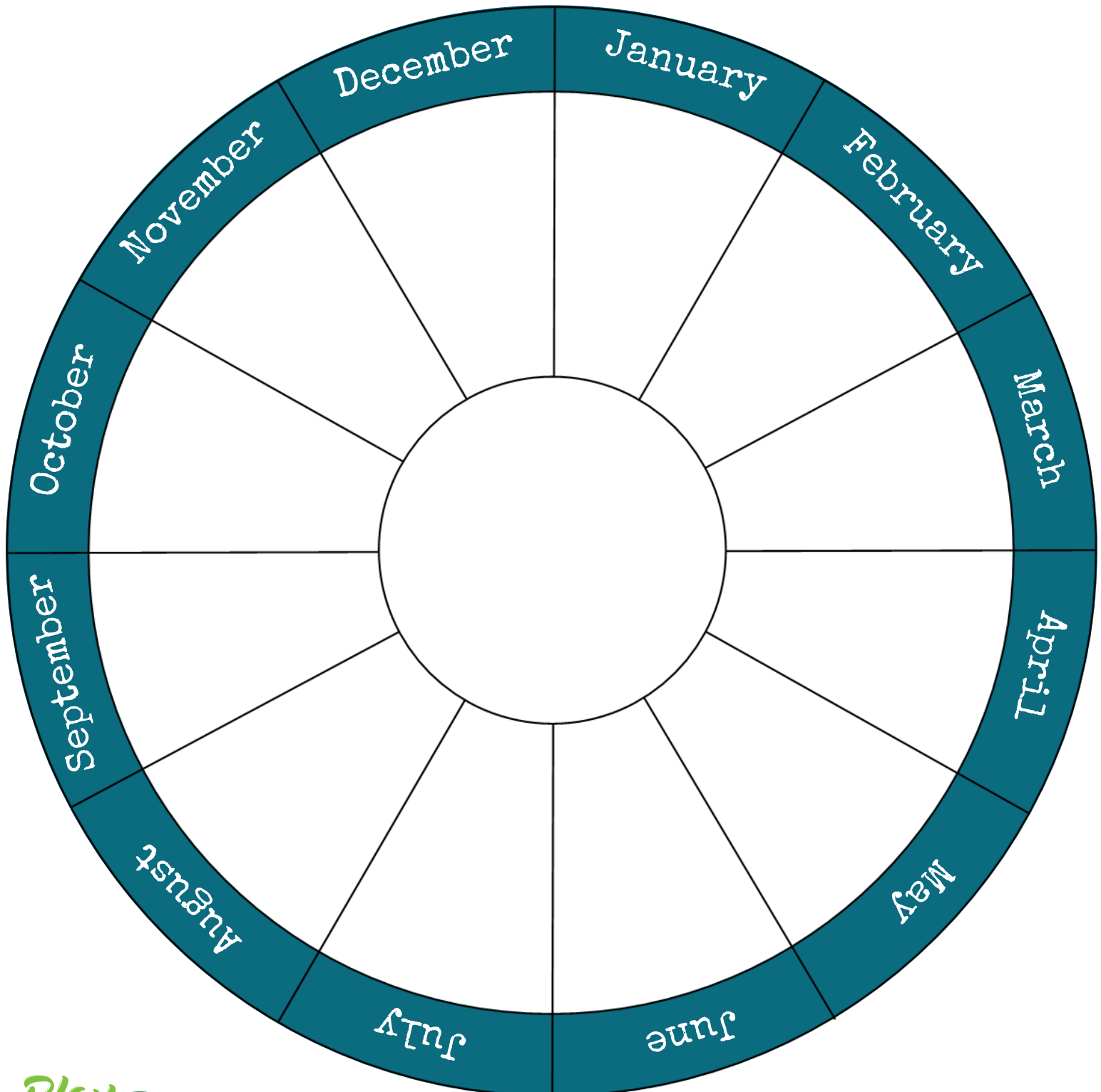
Weather Phenology Wheel

This phenology wheel is designed for weather information. In the areas provided, record* your observations of the daily moon cycle, weather, and high and low temperatures. In the center space, record the month!



Seasonal Phenology Wheel

This phenology wheel is designed to capture the change in seasons throughout the year. Pick a spot outside to visit monthly- this can be your backyard! Each month, record* a seasonal occurrence that you've observed, like a bird's nest, a budding branch, or falling leaves. In the center space, record the year!



Plant Phenology Wheel

This phenology wheel is designed to capture the seasonal changes undergone by a single plant. Pick one plant (trees are typically easiest for beginners) and record* its changes throughout the seasons. In the center space, record the name of your plant!

